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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 29 October 1997 from the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Secretary-General

In order to ensure full and timely implementation of your decision regarding the Decolonization Programme in the United Nations system, conveyed to me in your letter of 27 October 1997 (A/52/531), I have addressed today a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a copy of which I attach herewith.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 116 and 157.

(Signed) Utula U. SAMANA, CMG
Chairman
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

ANNEX

Identical letters dated 29 October 1997 from the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

As you and the members of your Committee are aware, 37 Member States, including my own, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Decolonization programme in the United Nations system" (A/AC.109/2094) to the Fourth Committee urging the Secretary-General to maintain the Decolonization Unit with all its present functions, as stipulated in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), in the Department of Political Affairs. Subsequently, extensive consultations took place between the Secretary-General and the sponsors. The Secretary-General reaffirmed his commitment to the United Nations Decolonization Programme and announced on 27 October 1997, in a letter addressed to me (A/52/531), his decision that "a stand-alone 'Decolonization unit' with the necessary resources will be established in the Department of Political Affairs to provide substantive input for the work of the Special Committee of 24" and reiterated his "commitment to implementing subprogramme 1.6 of the medium-term plan". In the spirit of compromise, the sponsors withdrew the aforementioned draft resolution.

In order to implement the decision of the Secretary-General, it is of paramount importance that your Committee approve the staffing and budgetary provisions for the Decolonization Programme stipulated in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and maintain the Decolonization Unit in the Department of Political Affairs.

Such an action would satisfy the interests of Member States and comply in full with the decision of the Secretary-General. It would also allow the international community to live up to the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and to our mutual aspirations of creating a better world for all.

(Signed) Utula U. SAMANA, CMG
Chairman
Special Committee on the Situation
with regard to the Implementation of
the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries
and Peoples